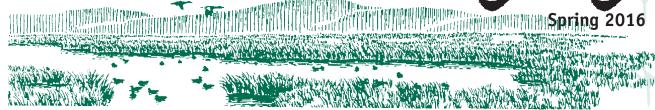
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Quarterly newsletter for Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Complex

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Save the Dates!
The Grays
Harbor
Shorebird
and Nature
Festival
will be held
May 6-8
in Hoquiam.

Billy Frank Jr., Tell Your Story

By Michael Schramm

Hidden away on a remote and inaccessible corner of the Refuge stands the jagged stump of a fallen tree. Even in

this broken condition, the tree's remains are dynamic and formidable. The storm that broke the tree is several years passed, and the surrounding forest and marshland is tranquil but for the calling of birds. But this sense of tranquility is thin. There is a heaviness in the air. and tidal currents churn the surrounding water into dark currents and eddies that perfectly reflect the profound nature

of events this tree witnessed. At this site, the Medicine Creek Treaty was signed, a brief event that would have ramifications that continue to affect the course of events to this day.



Over the coming months, you may notice a series of changes taking place as the Refuge updates publications and signs to reflect a new name. On December 18, 2015, President Obama signed into law the "Billy Frank Jr. Tell Your Story Act", which officially changed the name of the Refuge to Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. Additionally, the Act creates the

Medicine Creek Treaty National Memorial to commemorate the signing of the Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854 between the US Government and the leaders of

the Muckleshoot, Nisqually, Puyallup, and Squaxin Island Indian Tribes. This treaty was signed in a grove of trees located along present day McAllister Creek within the Refuge boundary. The "Treaty Tree" stump is the last vestige of this grove.

On the day of the treaty's signing, the tribes showed up dressed in their finest clothes, recognizing the significance

of the occasion, hoping it would be the beginning of a respectful relationship. In comparison, tribal members felt the US Government delegation appeared relatively ambivalent, with a sense of entitlement that left a lasting bad impression. Chief Leschi, who had been appointed by the governor to represent the Tribe, had tried to negotiate for better and more appropriate reservation lands. But his efforts were unsuccessful, and after the signing the tribes had given up 2.24 million acres of land in exchange for three reservations. The Nisqually Tribe, whose culture is integrally connected to salmon and traditional grounds, found themselves on

Continued on next page

Billy Frank Jr

From page 1

a piece of land away from the river that was rocky and useless for meeting their needs. As a result of this bad

treatment, Leschi led a group in rebellion that resulted in a year of skirmishes. Ultimately, Leschi and his brother, Quiemuth, were captured. Quiemuth was murdered in the Governor's office, and Leschi was executed by hanging. As a result of this sacrifice, the tribe got a reservation better suited to the Tribe's needs: it is larger and is located along the Nisqually River.



The treaty had promised payments to the Tribes over twenty years as well as access to traditional hunting and fishing grounds, where the natural resources would be shared "in common with the citizens of the territory." The terms of the treaty were, unfortunately, largely ignored—a trend that continued for over a century until Billy Frank Jr., a disenchanted tribal fisherman, became dedicated to the treaty rights cause. He brought matters to a head through a grassroots campaign and through acts of civil disobedience. In the 1960s and 1970s, he was arrested over 50

times for fishing on the Nisqually River, utilizing traditional methods as guaranteed in the Medicine Creek Treaty. These acts of civil disobedience forced the issue to the US Supreme Court in 1974, where Judge George Hugo Boldt issued the landmark Boldt Decision which

found in favor of the Tribes, upholding the terms of the original treaty. The Decision marked a turning point in legal treatment of tribes.



This decision had a huge impact on policy. In addition to helping to preserve and fortify Nisqually tribal culture (through salmon fishing rights), it also gave tribes throughout the Northwest a greater voice in natural resource management. The Boldt Decision interpreted the Treaty's language, establishing the Tribe's right to half of all the harvestable salmon returning to Western Washington each year. Consequently, the tribes now co-manage salmon fisheries with the State of Washington. The importance of this decision to environmental policy and the influence of Billy Frank Jr.'s subsequent accomplishments cannot be overstated. He became the chairman of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. which had been created in 1975 to support natural resource management related to fisheries. He held the position from 1981 until

—Rep. Denny Heck

When Billy Frank Jr. told his

story, he was a fisherman

trying to do what was right.

But in the story of our state,

he is a leader who inspired

a movement for justice,

and dedicated his life to

collaborating with others

in order to safeguard our

environment for everyone.

When visitors come to the

wildlife refuge, I want them

to sense the spirit of Billy

Frank Jr. and the work of all

of the tribes to defend and

preserve our beautiful land

and resources. Without that

context, the background and

history of our area gets lost.

This is a way to preserve

not just the refuge, but the

stories surrounding it.

Published quarterly by the Friends for Nisqually National Wildlife

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Graphic design: Lee Miller

Save trees, think green.

To receive *The Flyway* electronically, email **nisqually@fws.gov**

2014, a period of more than 30 years.



Billy Frank Jr. died in 2014, but his influence endures. During his life, he had been recognized with many prestigious awards, and in November 2015 he was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama. His legacy will truly be the great and positive impact he had on the cause of justice and on the natural environment, a benefit which will be felt for generations. Representative Denny Heck, who introduced the Tell Your Story Act said, "I loved Billy Frank. He was one of the greatest men I have met in my life. He is our Martin Luther King, our Desmond Tutu, our Nelson Mandela." It is a great honor that the Refuge will now be his namesake.



Internationally Known Butterfly Expert to speak at Shorebird and Nature Festival

On Friday, May 6, Robert Michael Pyle will present West-Side Butterflies: Rainforest to Rainshadow during the Keynote at Grays Harbor Shorebird and

Nature Festival.

About the Talk

Western Washington, especially its Maritime edge, is not well known for its butterflies--to put it mildly! In fact, many lepidopterists would rate our butterfly fauna as one of the poorest on the continent. However, the very fact of that reputation has led to neglect when it comes to the study of butterflies here. When we take a good look between showers, we find that a surprising

number of interesting and beautiful species have adapted well to west-side habitats, and that the habitats themselves are much more varied (and richer) than is commonly assumed.

In this talk, Bob will explain just why we have fewer butterflies than elsewhere, and then explore the species that do occur here and the special places where they may be found. He'll share some big surprises from his

many years devoted to the investigation and study of west-side butterflies, as well as some specialties, rarities, and mysteries.

About the Author

Robert Michael Pyle is the author of *The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Butterflies* and *The Butterflies of Cascadia*, among his twenty books of prose and poetry. His awards include the John Burroughs Medal (*Wintergreen*), a Guggenheim Fellowship (*Where Bigfoot Walks*), and the National Outdoor Book Award (*Sky*

Time in Gray's River). Bob
Pyle founded the Xerces
Society for Invertebrate
Conservation in 1971, and
has recently been named
an Honorary Fellow of the
Royal Entomological Society. He lives, writes, and
studies natural history in Gray's

River (not Harbor!), Southwest Washington.

On the Wing

By Glynnis Nakai, Refuge Manager

The trees are budding, the swallows have arrived, and Oregon Spotted Frogs are laying eggs. We are on the doorstep of spring. The hustle and bustle around the office is noticeable as the staff picks up the biological monitoring and gears up for school field trips.

Each spring, there is a sequence of activities and events starting with the Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest entry deadline on March 15. Official judging is held at the end of the month and copies of the winners' artwork are displayed in the auditorium. These entries are amazing especially when you see the age of these budding artists!

Spring is also when a majority of teachers schedule their annual field trips to the Refuge, and the program's success is evident with a full schedule from April into June. Extra effort was made to schedule 4th grade classes in support of the National Park Service's Every Kid in a Park program, helped by a grant from the National Park Foundation that provides bus trans-

portation for 4th grade classes. It looks like a total of 825 fourth grade students will participate in the education program at the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually NWR and Grays Harbor NWR this year and receive their

4th Grade Pass!

The annual Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival is less than two months away (May 6-8), and the program is filled with interesting speakers and popular birding opportunities. Visit the festival website, www. shorebirdfestival.com, for more information.

This is an exciting time

of year as we come out of gray, watery, winter months and look forward to the sounds of spring from different bird songs to school children excited by new discoveries. We hope to see you on the trails!





From left to right, Distinguished Volunteer Karen Yochem, Dennis Ellison, Art Pavey, and Volunteer of the Year Dick Cormier at the annual volunteer dinner.

Volunteer Accomplishments Celebrated at Annual Dinner

By Michael Schramm, Visitor Services Specialist

As volunteer coordinator for the Refuge, it is my great honor to annually celebrate the achievement of the Refuge's amazing volunteers. Our volunteers cover almost every aspect of the Refuge functions. They staff our Visitor Center and the front desk in our administrative building, assist with wildlife surveys, rove our trails, conduct guided walks, help out at festivals and at the Summer Lecture Series, and teach visiting school groups through our phenomenal education program. Their efforts are so critical that without their dedication, most of these programs simply wouldn't happen. Volunteers are the backbone of our daily operations.

This past year, public visitation to the Refuge increased dramatically from a little over 200,000 visitors in 2014, to over 235,000 visitors in 2015. The Refuge's 110 volunteers contributed over 15,000 hours to accommodate this visitation, effectively doubling our staff. Through my counterparts at other Refuges and through our visitors,

I'm constantly reminded how exceptional this pool of volunteers are in their sense of ownership, in their passion, and in their remarkable efforts. These are, in short, the best volunteers around!

Our volunteers' outstanding service was appreciated this year on February 12th at an annual catered dinner and recognition ceremony. The volunteers who earned top honors all contributed over 400 hours in 2015. Thank you to Shep Thorp (432 hours), Dennis Ellison (520 hours), Art Pavey (544 hours), and Distinguished Volunteer Karen Yochem (923 hours). Our Volunteer of the Year was Dick Cormier, who contributed 790 hours! He offered a weekend program on raptors throughout the Spring and Summer, worked regularly with visiting school field trips in our environmental education program, helped out with special events like the Summer Lecture Series, Shorebird Festival, and Watershed Festival. Dick is a regular presence on the Refuge trails, where he's always happy to answer questions or offer assistance. His influence is felt throughout the Refuge.

Thank you to all our volunteers; every day, it's a pleasure working with you! \swarrow

Spring Guided Walks

April

Saturday, April 2 Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk

10:30am-12 noon

Many species of bird, from the tiny Rufous Hummingbird to the majestic Bald Eagle, nest on the Refuge. Join experienced birder Juni Greenough for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures—the birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, April 9 Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk

8:30am-11:30am

Experience the thrill of seeing a Peregrine Falcon (the world's fastest bird) or hearing a woodpecker pecking away (up to 20 pecks per second)! Join experienced birder David Richardson for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures: The birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, April 9 Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk

10:30am-12 noon

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Saturday, April 9 Birds and Plants, Perfect Together!

1pm-2:45pm

Plants and birds need each other to survive! There are numerous ways that birds rely upon plants to meet their needs, and many plant species would struggle, or even become extinct, if there were no birds. With naturalist Kim Adelson as your guide, explore these relationships and learn why birds prefer the habitats that they do! Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Sunday, April 10 Our Amazing Plant World

10:30am-12:30pm

Spring is the perfect time to experience the Refuge plant life is all its diversity! Join Dave Zink on a nature walk through the Refuge—all the while learning about plantinsect interactions, adaptations for survival and other interesting facts. You only live once: Stop to smell the flowers! Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Sunday, April 10 The Magical Forest

11:30am-1pm

Ever wonder why skunk cabbage stinks? Ever wonder if all woodpecker holes are the same? Everything has a story to tell, and Ellen Sweetin is here to help translate. Join her on a walk through the remarkable riparian forest and get to know the incredible inhabitants. All ages welcome, curious minds encouraged. Meet at the Visitor Center and prepare to be astonished.

Sunday, April 10 The Nisqually and Medicine Creek: Where Nature, Culture and History Converge

1pm-2:30pm

Learn about the events surrounding the signing of the Medicine Creek Treaty; explore how the Nisqually people came to the Nisqually delta and how their lives changed with the settlement of Europeans. Lynn Corliss leads you down history's winding path, where you will discover important things about the people who enjoyed this land before you did. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Saturday, April 16 The Magical Forest

11am-12:30pm

Ever wonder why skunk cabbage stinks? Ever wonder if all woodpecker holes are the same? Everything has a story to tell, and Ellen Sweetin is here to help translate. Join her on a walk through the remarkable riparian forest and get to know the incredible inhabitants. All ages welcome, curious minds encouraged. Meet at the Visitor Center and prepare to be astonished.

Saturday, April 16

Amazing Animal Adaptations!

1pm-3pm

Through adaptations, animals have found ways to inhabit every environment on earth! Looking closely at the incredible traits animals have developed brings us to a deeper appreciation of the natural world. Visit our Critter Cart to see pelts and other artifacts up close, hear about these fascinating creatures, and ask questions—the perfect way to begin a visit to the Refuge! You can find the cart in front of the Visitor Center.

Sunday, April 17 **Home Sweet Home**

12 noon-1pm

Enjoy a short walk through the various habitats of the Refuge, exploring all there is to see! Along the way, hear some tales of the Squalli Absch natives, farmer Brown, and the events surrounding the Medicine Creek Treaty. Meet Sue Stone at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Sunday, April 17 It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild

1pm-2:30pm

Life on the Refuge reaches its maximum intensity during the vital, turbulent spring. Flowers explode and the creatures of the refuge dance to nature's eternal drum. Experience it all on a guided walk led by naturalist Mark Hunter. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Saturday, April 23 Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk

8:30am-10:30am

With spring migration in full swing, the Refuge is all aflutter! Experience the thrill of seeing swallows (four different species) or the "wichity wichity" of the common yellowthroat. Join experienced birder Mark Hunter for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures—the birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, April 23 **The Magical Forest**

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Sunday, April 24 Our Amazing Plant World

1pm-3pm

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Saturday, April 30 It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild

10am-12 noon

From bitterns to butterflies, salmonberries to salmon fish, nature on the Refuge takes many forms. Join naturalists Art Pavey and Jan Kramer on this nature walk that is sure to teach you something new about the natural splendor of the Refuge. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Saturday, April 30 Amazing Animal Adaptations! 11am-3pm

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May

Sunday, May 1

Birds of a Feather:

Take Flight on a Bird Walk

9:30am-11am

Many species of bird, from the tiny Rufous Hummingbird to the majestic Bald Eagle, nest on the Refuge. Join experienced birder Juni Greenough for a guided walk



full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures—the birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

Sunday, May 1 Birds and Plants, Perfect Together!

10:30am-12:15pm

Plants and birds need each other to survive! There are numerous ways that birds rely upon plants to meet their needs, and many plant species would struggle, or even become extinct, if there were no birds. With naturalist Kim Adelson as your guide, explore these relationships and learn why birds prefer the habitats that they do! Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Sunday, May 1 Our Amazing Plant World

1pm-3pm

Spring is the perfect time to experience the Refuge plant life is all its diversity! Join Dave Zink on a nature walk through the Refuge—all the while learning about plant-insect interactions, adaptations for survival and other interesting facts. You only live once: Stop to smell the flowers! Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Friday, May 6 - Sunday, May 8 Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival

Go to **shorebirdfestival.com** for details

Saturday, May 7 Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk

10:30am-12 noon

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Saturday, May 7 **The Magical Forest**

10:30am-12 noon

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Saturday, May 14 **The Magical Forest**

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Saturday, May 14 Amazing Animal Adaptations!

11am-2pm

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Saturday, May 14 Raptors of the Delta

1pm-2pm

The Peregrine Falcon, the Bald Eagle, the Northern Harrier, the Great Horned Owl: a variety of amazing raptors can be found on the delta, and each has a story to tell. Experienced birder Richard Cormier will reveal unique aspects of a raptor's journey through life in this short, illustrated program. Meet in the Visitor Center Auditorium.

Sunday, May 15 Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk

8:30am-10:30am

With spring migration in full swing, the Refuge is all aflutter! Experience the thrill of seeing swallows (four different species) or the "wichity wichity" of the common yellowthroat. Join experienced birder Mark Hunter



for a guided walk full of the sights and sounds of one of the Refuge's largest treasures—the birds! Meet at the landing overlooking the pond at the Visitor Center.

Sunday, May 15

The Nisqually and Medicine Creek: Where Nature, Culture and History Converge

1pm-2:30pm

Learn about the events surrounding the signing of the Medicine Creek Treaty; explore how the Nisqually people came to the Nisqually delta and how their lives changed with the settlement of Europeans. Lynn Corliss leads you down history's winding path, where you will discover important things about the people who enjoyed this land before you did. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Saturday, May 21

Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk

8:30am-11:30am

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Sunday, May 22 Home Sweet Home

12 noon-1pm

Enjoy a short walk through the various habitats of the Refuge, exploring all there is to see! Along the way, hear some tales of the Squalli Absch natives, farmer Brown, and the events surrounding the Medicine Creek Treaty. Meet Sue Stone at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Sunday, May 22 It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild

1pm-2:30pm

Life on the Refuge reaches its maximum intensity during the vital, turbulent spring. Flowers explode and the creatures of the refuge dance to nature's eternal drum. Experience it all on a guided walk led by naturalist Mark Hunter. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Saturday, May 28 It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild

10am-12 noon

From bitterns to butterflies, salmonberries to salmon fish, nature on the Refuge takes many forms. Join naturalists Art Pavey and Jan Kramer on this nature walk that is sure to teach you something new about the natural splendor of the Refuge. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Saturday, May 28 **The Magical Forest**

11am-12:30pm

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Saturday, May 28 Amazing Animal Adaptations! 11am-2pm

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Saturday, May 28

It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild

1pm-2:30pm

The estuary is radiant with complex natural beauty. The Refuge's prized saltwater wetland is home to a multitude of insects, plants, amphibians, birds, and animals, all of them linked inextricably to create a single natural wonder! Learn about the big picture with naturalist Donna Snow. Meet in the Visitor Center.

Sunday, May 29 It's in Your Nature: Exploring the Wild

1pm-2:30pm

The estuary is radiant with complex natural beauty. The Refuge's prized saltwater wetland is home to a multitude of insects, plants, amphibians, birds, and animals, all of them linked inextricably to create a single natural wonder! Learn about the big picture with naturalist Donna Snow. Meet in the Visitor Center.

June

Sunday, June 4 **The Magical Forest**

11:30am-1pm

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Saturday, June 4 Amazing Animal Adaptations!

11am-2pm

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Sunday, June 5 **Home Sweet Home**

12 noon-1pm

Enjoy a short walk through the various habitats of the Refuge, exploring all there is to see! Along the way, hear some tales of the Squalli Absch natives, farmer Brown, and the

events surrounding the Medicine Creek Treaty. Meet Sue Stone at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Sunday, June 5 Birds and Plants, Perfect Together!

1pm-2:45pm

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Saturday, June 11 Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk

10:30am-12 noon

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Sunday, June 12 Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk

8:30am-10:30am

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Saturday, June 18 Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk

8:30am-11:30am

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Sunday, June 19 **Birds of a Feather: Take Flight on a Bird Walk**

8:30am-10:30am

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Sunday, June 19 Our Amazing Plant World

1pm-3pm

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Saturday, June 25 Raptors of the Delta

1pm-2pm

The Peregrine Falcon, the Bald Eagle, the Northern Harrier, the Great Horned Owl: a variety of amazing raptors can be found on the delta, and each has a story to tell. Experienced birder Richard Cormier will reveal unique aspects of a raptor's journey through life in this short, illustrated program. Meet in the Visitor Center Auditorium.

Sunday, June 26 Birds and Plants, Perfect Together!

10:30am-12:15pm

Plants and birds need each other to survive! There are numerous ways that birds rely upon plants to meet their needs, and many plant species would struggle, or even become extinct, if there were no birds. With naturalist Kim Adelson as your guide, explore these relationships and learn why birds prefer the habitats that they do! Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.

Sunday, June 26 Our Amazing Plant World

1pm-3pm

Spring is the perfect time to experience the Refuge plant life is all its diversity! Join Dave Zink on a nature walk through the Refuge—all the while learning about plant-insect interactions, adaptations for survival and other interesting facts. You only live once: Stop to smell the flowers! Meet at the flagpole in front of the Visitor Center.





New and Renewing Friends Memberships Winter 2016

Senior/Student (\$15)

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Steve Coombs

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Curt Johnson
Kati Walsh
Deborah Woslum
Tricia Lapitan
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Virginia Clifford
Chris Warlow
Carol Erickson
Irene Von Tobel

Name

Family (\$50)

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John & Judy Toone
Christopher Bauermeister
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Friends of Nisqually NWR

is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 1998 to promote conservation of the natural and cultural resources and fund educational and outreach programs at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

Join Friends of Nisqually NWRC!

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Please make checks payable to: Friends of Nisqually NWRC, 100 Brown Farm Rd, Olympia, WA 98516 Your tax deductible contribution will help preserve the unique habitats, fish, and wildlife of the Nisqually Delta and the Grays Harbor Tideflats.

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Friends of Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

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... conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people...

The Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival * May 6–8, 2016

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The 21st Annual Shorebird and Nature Festival promises you a great nature experience. Witness an awe-inspiring spectacle as hundreds of thousands of shorebirds stop at Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge during their transcontinental migration north. Take part in a variety of events including field trips to local birding hot spots, lectures, exhibitors, vendors and the annual dinner, featuring guest speaker Robert Pyle, who will present *West-Side Butterflies: Rainforest to Rainshadow*.

www.shorebirdfestival.com (360) 289-5048